Reverend Parris:

* Mid-forties
* Widower
* Daughter Betty
* Niece Abigail
* Previously a merchant in Barbados
* Harvard Scholar
* Has been the minister in Salem for 3 years.
* Believes he is persecuted wherever he goes and is paranoid about people’s opinions of him.
* Does not have any interest in children
* He is a power-hungry man who wishes to elevate his position in the community.
* His reputation is very important to him as he is disliked by many people in the community.
* He is oddly a self pitying man as believes he is the victim in all situations.

A hypocritical religious figure that is an example of corruption within their community.

Within the community is in charge of divine law, but because divine law and common law are combined, he feels as though he is the law and above it.

“ now look you, child, your punishment will come in its time. But if you trafficked with spirits in the forest i must know it now, for surely my enemies will, and they will ruin me.” – Parris page 19

“there is a faction that is sworn to drive me from my pulpit. Do you understand?” –Parris page 19

Shows the dislike that the town holds for Parris, influences his attitude that he is being persecuted wherever he goes. Sense of not belonging as unlike the others he is not a framer.

“Abigail, i have fought here three long years to bend these stiff-necked people to me, and now, just now when some good respect is rising for me in the parish, you compromise my very character.” – Parris page 20

Parris’ desperation to gain favour in Salem and outlines the lengthy time period. It as been three years and yet is still not accepted as a godly man.

“Mr. Parris, you are the first minister ever did demand the deed to this house-“Proctor page 34

Proctor is highlighting how much Parris does not fit in with the community let alone as a minister in a town like Salem.

“Cast the devil out! Look him in the face! Trample him we’ll save you, Mary, only stand fast against him and –“ – Parris page 103

Due to all the hysteria in the courts over Mary Warren’s confession, if Parris does not support Abigail he will be seen as a fraud and he immediately almost subconsciously agrees that Mary is ‘witched’ and tries to break her free. In the beginning he would not believe it witchcraft but now to seem powerful and in charge of divine law he interferes constantly throughout the court.

“Judge Hathorne- it were another sort that hanged till now. Rebecca Nurse is no Bridget that lived three year with bishop before she married him. John Proctor is not Isaac Ward that drank his family to ruin. I would to god it were not so, Excellency, but these people have great weight yet in the town. Let Rebecca stand upon the gibbet and send up some righteous prayer, and i fear she’ll wake vengeance on you” -Parris page 111-112

Parris comes to a realisation the horrors of the hangings and attempts to postpone the hangings of proctor and Rebecca Nurse. He realises the impact it would have on the town, as proctor and Rebecca are great influences in the town and make up a part of it. If Parris can preserve this belonging and save these people he may in turn be accepted and respected.